

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1-8. (Canceled)
9. (New) A manifold assembly for a hot-water heating system including:
 - a manifold (10) including a sleeve element extending longitudinally about an axis (x), formed in one piece and having a plurality of pairs of apertures (11, 12) distributed along the manifold, wherein the apertures of each pair are aligned transversely with each other;
 - pairs of first and second tubular metal elements (20, 30) engaged in the said pairs of apertures (11, 12) in the manifold and mechanically coupled the one to the other by threaded means (16);
 - and
 - an annular seal element (19a, 19b) interposed between each tubular metal element (20, 30) and a respective surface of the manifold to provide a seal in the region of the aperture.
10. (New) The manifold assembly of Claim 9, wherein each seal element (19a, 19b) resiliently compressed by reason of said threaded means.
11. (New) The manifold assembly of Claim 9, wherein each seal element (19a, 19b) engages against surface (14, 15) of the manifold tapering inwardly thereof.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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12. (New) The manifold assembly of Claim 11, wherein the tapered surface is a conical a surface.

13. (New) The manifold assembly of Claim 9, wherein a prismatic seat (13) is formed at the site of one (11) of each pair of apertures (11, 12) for securing a corresponding portion (23) of a tubular metal element (20) against rotation.